

My name is Nancy Rosado and I'm glad to be here to talk about my experience with and share my story with you. My first experience with The Connection, Inc was in 1998 when I moved to Mother's Retreat upon my release from prison. I have struggled with addiction for most of my life and I also struggled with relationships and communication skills. I was with Mother's Retreat for a year where I worked on self-improvement, relapse prevention, social skills, parenting, and how to get back into society after my incarceration.

After graduating from Mother's Retreat, I began an outpatient program with The Connection Counseling center for three years as apart of my aftercare plan.

When I first applied for services with The Connection, Inc Supportive Housing for Families I was on my way to an eviction and in the process of reunifying with my children. I ended up homeless in September 2008 and I moved to the Covenant Shelter in New London.

My eviction was the consequence of my relapse in 2007 and because of that I got involved with DCF but very quickly I went back to recovery and still am in recovery. My recovery is my main priority in my life besides my children and giving them a good life like we deserve.

Being in the shelter was hard as I was stressing about housing, how I was going to provide for my children and give them a good home. That's when I got the news that I was at the top of the waiting list for The Connection, Inc Supportive Housing for Families program in February 2009. When I got enrolled in the program, I had issues such as past due utility bills and money owed to the Norwich Housing Authority which I successfully paid in full.

In April 2009, I moved into my apartment and The Connection provided me with beds and other furniture for my apartment which I am very grateful for. I feel like I have been very fortunate to be apart of The Connection, Inc and that they have helped me to save my own life.

Today, I am working on going back to school and I feel motivated to go back to work. I feel like my case managers have faith in me and encourage me to move forward. I'm also giving back to my community by translating for the Spanish-speaking community. I'm also working with families that are reunifying with their children through DCF.

Currently I am apart of the Differential Response System (DRS) committee where I participate in meetings in order to give my opinions and help DCF to better understand our community and what needs to be improved to help our families.

I feel like The Connection, Inc is needed for the families in our community, especially for the homeless.